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DAVIS

E.G. Gentry

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INFO IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10,  
P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 25, NSCE 00, SSO 00, USIE 00, CCO 00, NIC 01,  
SR 01, SAH 02, SCI 05, ACDA 16, SA 01, SAL 01, RSR 01, /119 W

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P R 281930Z AUG 68  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9730  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION BERLIN  
USMISSION NATO  
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USAFE

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SUBJECT: GDR FORCES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

REF: BONN 16073

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DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4  
By BM/jc, NARA, Date 1-12-06



1. BRANDT'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT, RITZEL, INFORMED THE DCM THAT FRG ESTIMATES OF GDR FORCES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS 2,000, NOT 20,000 AS REPORTED IN THE REFTEL. RITZEL, ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF GDR FORCES DESPITE SOME EFFORT BY SOVIET PROPAGANDA TO PLAY DOWN GDR PARTICIPATION OR EVEN TO CLAIM THAT GDR FORCES DID NOT PARTICIPATE AT ALL. (BERLIN'S 2129, PARA 4) RITZEL SAID THAT NOT ONLY WAS THEIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION SOLID ON THIS POINT, BUT THAT GDR LEADERS THEMSELVES HAD PROCLAIMED THE PARTICIPATION OF GDR TROOPS. IN THIS CONNECTION, DIE WELT TODAY HAS A FULL ARTICLE ABOUT THE GDR TROOPS IN THE KARLSBAD AREA, INCLUDING A PHOTOGRAPH OF A GDR MILITARY TRUCK IN THE AREA. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT THE GDR FORCES ARE CURRENTLY HIDING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, BUT THAT THEY WERE VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE ON THE FIRST DAYS OF THE INVASION. ELEMENTS OF THE 11TH GDR DIVISION ARE SPECIFICALLY

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MENTIONED AS BEING IN THE AREA. LODGE

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